Rail link between Bangalore and Pondicherry

2995. SHRI T.M. VENKATACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long pending demand for connecting Bangalore with Pondicherry *via* Krishnagiri, Samalpathi, Thiruvannamalai and Tindivanam; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No demands have been received in this regard till now.

(b) Does not arise.

Train service from New Delhi to Kanyakumari

2996. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 325 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 1996 and state:

(a) whether he had stated that attaching of new bogies on trains to Kanyakumari can be considered in view of the fact that it is a tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways are providing new air brake coaches on trains on a selective basis which are planned in advance. Therefore new coaches for Kanyakumari bound trains will be allotted during 1997-98.

Attachment of ladies compartment in the trains

2997. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assurance was given by him to the representatives of Kerala Women Commission that ladies compartments will be attached in the middle of the trains and picture of a women will be painted on that compartment so that illiterate women would easily identify it; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Generally Ladies Compartments, in Second class is provided in the 'S' portion next to Guard in the rear so that the Guard can keep a watch on the entry of unwanted passengers etc. However, Railways have been authorised to marshal ladies coaches in the middle. Instructions already exist to paint a picture of a woman on the nominatd compartment outside.

Revival of Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Line

2998. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to revive Haldibari-Chilahati railway line for smooth exports to Bangladesh and to ease road congestion in Coochbehar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has since been taken on such requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Requests have been received from

various quarters for re-opening of Haldibari-Chilahati railway line between India and Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) No Sir. It has not been found feasible due to certain security considerations.

Representation by Railway Supervisor (Works)

2999. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the next promotion of the Supervisor (Works) is in the grade of Junior Engineer (Works) Grade II in various Civil Construction Division of Northern Railway whereas both these posts carry same pay scale of Rs. 1400-2300;

(b) whether the Supervisors (Works) in Northern Railway have represented for redesignating them a Junior Engineer (Works) Grade II on the ground that pay scales, recruitment procedures, nature of duties, etc. of both these posts are same and there will be no financial burden on the Government on account of this change in the designation; and

(c) if so, the action Government are taking on this representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir, the next promotion of the Supervisor (Works) is to the post of Junior Engineer, Gr. II (Works).

(b) and (c) Supervisors (Works) of Northern Railway have represented for redesignating them as Junior Engineer Gr. II. There is no proposal at present to redesignate the Supervisors (Works) as Junior Engineer and Junior Engineer (Works) Gr. II is a promotional post for the Supervisors (Works). Besides, the Vth Central Pay Commission has recommended different scales for Supervisors and the Junior Engineers and the parity in pay scales may not continue.

Outstanding dues of Railways towards NTPC, DESU, SEBs etc.

3000. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount the NTPC, DESU, State Electricity Boards and Private Power Stations owe to Railways as on 31st January, 1997, separately, zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways for recovery of these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) A statements in attached. (*See* below).

(b) In order to avoid accretion of fresh outstanding dues, the scheme of pre-payment for carriage of coal consignments to all Power Houses pertaining to various SEBs has been imposed w.e.f. 1.10.96 and for BTPP w.e.f. 1.1.97.

In order to recover past outstanding dues upto 31.12.96 from various SEBs/ Power Houses the matter has been considered by Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs on 7.2.97, who have decided that 15% of the Central Plan Assistance to the State Governments/ Govt. of NCT of Delhi would be set-aside for recoveries towards outstanding dues to Railways Coal Companies and Power Utilities and shared proportionately by each creditor.